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Two Nuclear Torpedoes Taken From Sunken Sub

Associated Press

CIA chief William E. Colby has told a House subcommittee that the agency succeeded in recovering parts of two nuclear-tipped torpedoes from a sunken Soviet submarine, according to Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo, D-N.Y.

Addabbo, a member of the defense appropriations subcommittee, also quoted Colby as saying yesterday it is doubtful that the CIA-financed Glomar Explorer will make a second attempt this summer to salvage the rest of the submarine from the bottom of the Pacific Ocean.

Addabbo was the only member of the subcommittee who would comment on

Colby's closed-door briefing, which covered a wide range of subjects, including the CIA budget and recent events in Indochina.

ONE OTHER MEMBER, who declined to be named, said he did not recall the discussion about the torpedoes and quoted Colby as saying it has not been decided yet whether the Glomar Explorer will return to the wreck site.

Earlier this week, the Glomar Explorer — owned by billionaire Howard Hughes — began a series of tests off the California coast after undergoing several months of what were described as "modifications" in a Long Beach, Calif., shipyard.

Colby has refused all public comment on the success of the Glomar's attempt last year to raise the submarine from 17,000 feet of water.

However, he has indicated to selected journalists in off-the-record briefings that none of the submarine's nuclear weapons

were recovered, urging editors to withhold publication of the story so that the deep-sea recovery vessel could complete its mission in secrecy this summer.

DESPITE COLBY'S off-the-record comments, there have been persistent news reports based on informed sources that the Glomar succeeded in recovering all or part of the submarine's nuclear weapons. Most recently, the Los Angeles Times reported that two torpedoes had been recovered intact.

Addabbo said Colby was not asked whether the parts recovered included nuclear warheads. Addabbo also said Colby had told the subcommittee that examination of the salvaged parts of the submarine was being hampered by nuclear contamination which occurred when the sub exploded and sank in 1968.

According to Addabbo, Colby said the agency would know more about the value of what was recovered in 60 days.